

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to make explicit what was intended. Incidentally, the Oshida device would be inoperative if the bolt were inserted in a direction opposite to that shown in Fig. 5. The end of the bolt would engage the ends of ear portions 19 and push the engagement pieces 16 out of the cavity 12 of the nut 10, rendering the device of Oshida incapable of performing its intended function. Also, it is apparent from a comparison of Figs. 4 and 6(a) of Oshida that the angle of the engagement pieces 16 after insertion of the bolt is 90° from their initial position before insertion of the bolt. In Applicant's invention, the corresponding angle is less than 90°.

Accordingly, Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon are clearly allowable.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to make these claims dependent on Claim 1 and to modify the claim language for consistency with Claim 1.

Although Applicant disagrees with the Office position regarding the patentability of Claim 6, that claim has been cancelled to expedite the allowance of this application.

This application is now clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb/kss

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

Date: July 18, 2005

By: Nelson H. Shapiro
Nelson H. Shapiro
Reg. No. 17,095